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World AIDS Day Events Planned for Hartford Mayor Perez to address the city

November 16, 2004, Hartford, CT—To commemorate World AIDS Day 2004 a series of events are planned to raise awareness around HIV/AIDS. From November 30 to December 3rd, 11 Hartford-area AIDS and social service agencies have united to offer several special events and a workshop series.

On December 1, 2004 at 5:30pm, to kick off Hartford World AIDS Day, Mayor Perez will speak in the City Hall Atrium, 500 Main Street, Hartford. The event will include performances by area youth and local poets. Hot 93.7 FM will broadcast live at the event. At 6:30pm, a candlelight memorial walk will be held on the way to a prayer service at St. Patrick/St. Anthony's Church, 285 Church Street, Hartford.

The theme of this year's World AIDS Day is "Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS." HIV/AIDS is a crisis in Connecticut, particularly among Hartford's women. "I am deeply concerned about the disproportionate impact HIV and AIDS is having on our city residents," stated Mayor Eddie Perez, City of Hartford Mayor. "I intend to commit time and manpower to reducing the impact this disease is having on our city."

Connecticut ranks **number one in New England** among AIDS cases, and Hartford has the **highest number of AIDS cases in Connecticut**. Connecticut AIDS rates among women, injection drug users, and Hispanics are twice the national average. As of 2004, Hartford has 2,951 cases of AIDS, of which 78.7 % are male, 21.3% are female, 42.3% are Hispanic, 41.2% are Black, and 16.2% are White.

For more information about World AIDS Day, call (860) 547-1426 ext. 7154 or log on to www.unaids.org.